

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Union County

North Carolina · Monroe · FIPS 37179 · Population 240,109 ·
Crosodo Index #2867*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
02 NCAC 9C.0307	Good	—	MEDIUM	2026-05-05

IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

NORTH CAROLINA: UNION COUNTY

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Union County

Population 240,109 · State baseline: 02 NCAC 9C.0307 · MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling (not garage, basement, or separate building). Shelf-stable low-risk foods only. Must check with Union County Planning for home occupation permit.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Yes (Union County Planning Department likely requires home occupation permit per NC state law requirement to check with local planning/zoning (step 4 of NC NCDA&CS home processor application process). Check with Union County Planning & Development.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Yes (Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required; initial and yearly)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional — Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling (not garage, basement, or separate building). Shelf-stable low-risk foods only. Must check with Union County Planning for home occupation permit.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required; private well may require testing
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing; sanitary kitchen required per GMP inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes — Annual inspection by NCDA&CS required; initial and yearly
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — Union County Planning Department likely requires home occupation permit per NC state law requirement to check with local planning/zoning (step 4 of NC NCDA&CS home processor application process). Check with Union County Planning & Development.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail, restaurants, markets) after inspection. City of Monroe has municipal zoning.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified; home occupation restrictions may limit non-resident employees

Relevant county code

02 NCAC 9C.0307; Union County Planning ordinance (home occupation)

RESEARCH NOTES

Union County NC follows the state baseline. NC home processor program requires annual inspection and prohibits pets. No Union County-specific cottage food ordinance found. Confidence medium — state law confirmed but no specific Union County .gov cottage food source retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.unioncountync.gov>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/food-drug-food-program-home-processor>

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-and-drug-protection/home-processor-inspections>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/union-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Union County	Cabarrus County	Mecklenburg County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No pets allowed in home at any time — presence of any pet disqualifies applicant	Pets in the home are a disqualifying factor under NC home processor program. Indoor pets are considered pests under GMP requirements. Pet p...	No pets in the home at any time (state/federal GMP rule disqualifying condition).
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct and indirect sales allowed (retail, restaurants, markets) after inspection. City of Monroe has municipal zoning.	NC home processors may sell directly to consumers, at events, farmers markets, retail stores, and restaurants. No internet-only mail-order ...	Indirect sales to retail stores and restaurants allowed within NC. No sales cap.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Conditional	Varies	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	Annual home kitchen inspection by NCDA&CS required. Pets in home at any time disqualify applicant entirely. Kitchen must be in the dwelling...	North Carolina requires all home processors to have their home kitchen inspected by the NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division before se...	Mecklenburg County follows NC state baseline: home processors regulated by NCDA&CS, requiring annual kitchen inspection. Mecklenburg County...
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable foods only; no refrigerated or frozen products	Only shelf-stable, non-refrigerated finished products may be stored. Areas used for material/ingredient/equipment storage are included in t...	State baseline applies
POPULATION	240,109	226,396	1,115,403

State context — North Carolina cottage food law

Union County's rules sit on top of North Carolina's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE 02 NCAC 9C.0307	ANNUAL SALES CAP —
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Yes	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
INDIRECT SALES Yes — Home processors may sell to retail stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers. Sales at farmers markets are permitted. Labels are required for wholesale and packaged self-service retail; direct hand-to-consumer sales (e.g., from home or at events) may be exempt from affixed labels if ingredient info is available on request. NC requires annual home kitchen inspection, which is unusual among no-cap states.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [North Carolina cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2002%20-%20agriculture%20and%20consumer%20services/chapter%2009%20-%20food%20and%20drug%20protection/subchapter%20c/02%20ncac%2009c%20.0307.pdf>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection/food-program/fdpd-food-program-home-processor>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/north-carolina/>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Union County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/union-county-discuss>

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Union County, North Carolina. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours free on the Crosodo Forum.

crosodo.com/nb/north-carolina/union-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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